

1991 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE

FINAL REPORT

From January through December 1991 there were a total of 70 children under four years of age killed in traffic collisions. 39 were totally unrestrained; 3 were in adult safety belts; 10 were in improperly used safety seats; 4 were killed when a safety seat was available but not used; and only 10 were in correctly used safety seats. (In the other four fatalities, safety seat use was unknown [2] or not a factor [2])

The majority of the victims probably would have survived had a properly attached safety seat been in use.

In the collision summaries, an asterisk after the date indicates that the victim had an Hispanic surname. 33 of the fatal victims (47 percent) were in this category.

VICTIMS BY YEAR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>
1991	70	4,793
1990	64	5,109
1989	43	5,102
1988	60	4,855
1987	66	4,792
1986	50	4,212
1985	53	4,050
1984	57	4,177
1983	60	4,273
1982	46	4,679
1981	58	4,716
1980	47	4,652

27360 CITATIONS (CHP ONLY)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1991	24,161
1990	21,476
1989	18,420
1988	15,196
1987	15,473
1986	12,620
1985	14,593
1984	11,879
1983	6,315*

*(1983 CITES STARTED 4/1/83)

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JANUARY

- 06* Ontario/San Bernardino/0152. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (alcohol, methamphetamine and marijuana) driving a stolen vehicle, was being pursued by law enforcement vehicles. DUI driver ran through a red light and struck a second vehicle. Child in second vehicle, riding in an improperly attached safety seat, suffered fatal injuries.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 07* Hanford/Kings/1501. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver made left turn and vehicle was struck broadside by oncoming traffic. Impact ejected child, who was riding on the lap of his father.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 08* Los Angeles/Los Angeles/2150. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver in a stolen vehicle ran a red light and struck second vehicle broadside. Child was seated at point of impact.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

FEBRUARY

- 16 Uninc./Del Norte/1515. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Had been drinking driver (mother) lost control of vehicle on slick pavement and slid off roadway, into a tree. All occupants were unrestrained and ejected. Investigating officer believes safety seat and safety belt would have saved the lives of mother and child.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 27* Coachella/Riverside/1802. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver attempted to leave a private drive and merge with traffic but pulled in front of an oncoming vehicle causing a collision. Unrestrained child in second vehicle suffered fatal injuries while a safety seat was strapped, unused, into the rear of the vehicle.

PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE

MARCH

- 01* Uninc./San Bernardino/1250. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) lost control of his vehicle on wet road and spun into oncoming lane. Vehicle was struck broadside by second vehicle. Child was riding in an adult lap/shoulder belt.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 01 Hayward/Alameda/1855. 3-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver crossed over into oncoming traffic and struck another vehicle. Impact ejected occupants of second vehicle (all unrestrained).

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

MARCH (CONTINUED)

- 03* Uninc./Ventura/1845. 2-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (father) attempted to make a left turn in front of oncoming traffic. Second vehicle hit first vehicle broadside. Child was riding in mother's lap.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 06 Uninc./Fresno/1930. 2-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (father) lost control of his vehicle which slid off roadway and impacted with oak tree on passenger's door. Child was at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 15 Uninc./Los Angeles/0545. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver lost control of his vehicle and slid into oncoming traffic. Child he was transporting was riding in a safety seat which was not attached by a safety belt.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 23 San Diego/San Diego/1428. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was in a left-hand curve when an underinflated tire failed causing vehicle to slide into utility pole. Child was seated on lap of right front passenger.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 30* Riverside/Riverside/1400. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver lost control of vehicle for unknown reasons, left the roadway and overturned ejecting occupants. Child was riding on lap of right front passenger.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 30* Uninc./Riverside/1920. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver in a large van failed to see a stop sign and hit a small foreign car at approximately 45 mph. Child and two other properly restrained passengers on side of impact suffered fatal injuries.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

APRIL

- 05 Los Angeles/Los Angeles/1140. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) was weaving back and forth on city street, lost control and hit a parked motorhome. Child was on seat in a non-approved child carrier (not a child safety seat).
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 05 San Diego/San Diego/1800. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver lost control of vehicle because of underinflated right rear tire. Vehicle left roadway, overturned, and impacted several metal poles, finally impacting a utility pole. Child was at point of massive impact.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

APRIL (CONTINUED)

- 10* Cerritos/Los Angeles/2330. 3-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver was operating vehicle at 90 - 100 mph on wrong side of freeway and struck second vehicle head on. Child was unrestrained passenger in second vehicle. Other passengers in this vehicle used safety belts and survived.

NO SAFETY SEAT/POSSIBLY PREVENTABLE

- 19* Uninc./Eldorado/1705. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver lost control of vehicle for unknown reason, crossed the median and struck a pickup truck head on

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 29 Uninc./Los Angeles/1740. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver attempted to cross an intersection with oncoming traffic too close. Second vehicle swerved to avoid first vehicle and struck a third vehicle head on. Unrestrained occupants (including child) in second vehicle sustained fatal injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

MAY

- 06 Ontario/San Bernardino/0105. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver traveling at low rate of speed (10-20 mph) drifted from shoulder onto number one lane of freeway and into the path of second vehicle. That vehicle, traveling 65 mph rear ended the first vehicle. Child in second vehicle was riding on her mother's lap.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 08* Uninc./Riverside/2008. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver of full sized car was inattentive and allowed her vehicle to drift across the center line and into the path of a small oncoming vehicle. Child was a passenger in the right front seat of the smaller vehicle.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 09 Uninc./Kern/2110. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Hit-and-run driver ignored a stop sign and struck second vehicle broadside. Child was a passenger in the second vehicle.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 15* Uninc./Fresno/1500. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver entered intersection in front of oncoming traffic and her vehicle was struck broadside. Unrestrained child in first vehicle suffered fatal injuries while a second 2-year-old in the same vehicle survived with minor injuries because he was in a properly used safety seat.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

MAY (CONTINUED)

- 19* Sacramento/Sacramento/1006. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) exited a parking lot and turned onto a street. During the turn, the right rear door swung open and the child fell out and was run over by the vehicle's rear tire. None of the 5 children in the vehicle (four of whom were under four years of age) was in a safety seat or belt.

NO SAFETY SEAT/NO COLLISION/PREVENTABLE

- 19* Uninc./Kern/2045. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver (with suspended license) swerved into oncoming traffic and struck second vehicle head on. Second vehicle's driver (father) was also DUI (and also driving with a suspended license). Unrestrained child in right front seat suffered fatal injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 23* Kerman/Fresno/1750. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) made a left turn at an intersection and the unrestrained child fell out when the rear door opened. Child was then run over by rear tire of vehicle.

NO SAFETY SEAT/NO COLLISION/PREVENTABLE

JUNE

- 05 Uninc./Yuba/1840. 3-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver lost control of vehicle, slid across center line and struck oncoming vehicle. Driver and passenger (child) in oncoming vehicle suffered fatal injuries. Safety seat use is unknown. Second child in vehicle was riding in improperly used safety seat but suffered only minor injuries.

SAFETY SEAT USE UNKNOWN/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 05 Uninc./Merced/2200. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver (father) lost control of vehicle, slid across center line and was struck broadside by oncoming traffic. Father admitted improperly attaching safety belt to safety seat, "...I just put one seat belt on because it didn't reach..."

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 09 Uninc./San Bernardino/1835. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Father was driving vehicle at 70 mph when a rear tire blew. Driver overcorrected and lost control of vehicle which left the roadway and rolled ejecting unrestrained child.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 11 Uninc./Shasta/1525. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver (father) was operating vehicle. Mother had removed child from safety seat to clean up something the child had spilled. Driver lost control of vehicle, slid off highway and into a tree.

PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE

JUNE (CONTINUED)

- 15 Uninc./Yuba/1955. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (mother) was arguing with husband and lost control of vehicle which slid off highway and struck an embankment ejecting unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 17 Huntington Beach/Orange/1032. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Speeding driver did not stop for red light and struck another vehicle broadside. Second vehicle was then struck head on by a third vehicle. Child in second vehicle was riding in a safety seat but it appears that the safety belt came unbuckled during the collision allowing the child to suffer fatal injuries. Officer theorized that something struck the buckle release during the collision.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 23* Uninc./Los Angeles/1800. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver with all occupants properly restrained was operating vehicle in a safe and proper manner when a large tree fell onto the roof.
SAFETY SEAT NOT A FACTOR
- 23* Pomona/Los Angeles/1926. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) was operating vehicle at high rate of speed when a second vehicle experienced loss of power. Second vehicle was pulling to the shoulder when it was struck from behind by first vehicle. Child was wearing only an adult lap belt and suffered fatal injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 25 Uninc./Riverside/1440. 1-YR-OLD-FEMALE. Driver (mother) made an unsafe left turn and was struck by oncoming traffic. Child was riding in a safety seat, but the restraint belts were excessively loose and improperly positioned. The force and direction of the impact caused the infant to slip through the restraint belts and be ejected.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 25* Uninc./Los Angeles/2015. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) struck a second vehicle making a left turn in front of her. Impact spun the first vehicle into a pole with massive impact occurring at point where child was riding.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 27 Lafayette/Contra Costa/0504. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) became distracted while operating a stolen vehicle, lost control, crossed over center line and struck a parked vehicle. Collision caused a fire in the vehicle. Both driver and child suffered fatal smoke inhalation. Child had been riding on driver's lap.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

JULY

- 07 Uninc./Shasta/1700. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) was fatigued after driving a long distance and lost control of her vehicle which overturned and hit an embankment. Roof of vehicle was crushed by impact with embankment. Child, in a properly attached safety seat, suffered fatal injuries when roof collapsed directly above him.

SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 19* Los Angeles/Los Angeles/2130. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Had been drinking driver in a stolen vehicle was being pursued by law enforcement officers. Driver made a left turn into the path of a second vehicle which struck it. Passenger in right front seat of second vehicle (wearing lap/shoulder belt) was breast feeding her unrestrained child. Mother suffered minor injuries -- child suffered fatal injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 21 Uninc./San Diego/1829. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver was distracted by a child who was seated beside her wearing only an adult belt. While distracted, driver allowed her vehicle to drift to the right and strike the rear of a stopped transit bus. Driver (in a lap/shoulder belt) suffered only minor injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

AUGUST

- 04 Los Angeles/Los Angeles/1525. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE AND 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver for unknown reasons allowed her vehicle to drift across the center line and into the path of an oncoming vehicle, striking it head on. No safety seats in first vehicle and safety belts were covered by add-on seat covers.

NO SAFETY SEATS/PREVENTABLE

- 07 Uninc./San Diego/1500. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver in large four-wheel drive vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed (80 mph) and struck a small vehicle which turned left in front of him. All passengers in the small vehicle were unrestrained and a total of three children in this vehicle suffered fatal injuries.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 11* Uninc./Santa Clara/1340. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) became impatient and attempted to pass a motor home on the right. Driver almost completed the pass but struck the right front of the motor home when returning to the lane. This impact caused the vehicle to slide out of control into the path of oncoming traffic where it was struck broadside. Child was in an adult lap belt and in the officer's opinion a child safety seat would have saved her life.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

AUGUST (CONTINUED)

- 11 Uninc./Fresno/2110. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) didn't stop at a stop sign and his vehicle was struck broadside by second vehicle. A safety seat was present in vehicle but not used.

PRESENT BUT NOT USED/PREVENTABLE

- 18* Fresno/Fresno/0326. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver (0.17% and positive for Cocaine) fell asleep and his vehicle drifted off the roadway and struck a wall. Child was in a safety seat but it is unknown if it was correctly used (injuries would seem to indicate that the seat was not properly attached).

PRESENT BUT PROPER USE UNKNOWN/UNKNOWN

SEPTEMBER

- 02* Uninc./Tulare/1030. TWO, 2-YR-OLD FEMALES. Driver for unknown reasons swerved across center line and struck second vehicle head on. Six unrestrained occupants of second vehicle, including two 2-year-olds, suffered fatal injuries.

NO SAFETY SEATS/MASSIVE IMPACT

- 02* Oxnard/Ventura/1905. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) lost control of her vehicle, overcorrected, skidded off highway and vehicle overturned ejecting unrestrained child and pinning her beneath the vehicle.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 07 Daly City/San Mateo/0348. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) fell asleep and vehicle hit Jersey barrier head on then spun. Child was in an adult lap belt. In the officer's opinion, a safety seat would have prevented the fatality.

ADULT LAP BELT/PREVENTABLE

- 07* San Diego/San Diego/2100. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver traveling 50 mph in a 35 mph zone struck the rear of a small vehicle stopped at a signal. Impact ejected the child and her unattached safety seat from the second vehicle.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 08 Los Angeles/Los Angeles/2100. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Hit and run driver sideswiped second vehicle (small pickup) which went out of control and overturned. Child was riding in the bed of the pickup and suffered fatal injuries. Father was driving pickup wearing lap/shoulder belt and was uninjured.

NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 10* Uninc./Stanislaus/0320. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) was fatigued and fell asleep. Vehicle drifted into the center guard rail, driver over corrected and lost control of vehicle. Second impact with center guard rail threw child out of vehicle. Seat had been attached to safety belt at an improper point and the straps of the safety seat itself were too loose to restrain child.

IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

SEPTEMBER (CONTINUED)

- 11* Los Angeles/Los Angeles/1445. 1-YR-OLD MALE. DUI driver swerved his vehicle into oncoming traffic and struck second vehicle head on. Child was unrestrained passenger in second vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 13 Los Angeles/Los Angeles/1920. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (father) made a left turn at an intersection and unrestrained child fell out when door opened. Right rear tire ran over child inflicting fatal injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 21 Compton/Los Angeles/0105. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver (0.26% two and half hours after the collision) allowed his vehicle to drift over the center line and into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Second vehicle's driver was also DUI (0.10%) and could not avoid first vehicle. None of the occupants of vehicle two wore safety belts or used a safety seat.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 28* Uninc./Los Angeles/1955. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver, operating his vehicle at a speed that was unsafe for conditions, struck a second vehicle broadside at an intersection. The occupants of the second vehicle included the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

OCTOBER

- 08* Clovis/Fresno/1902. 2-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) ran a red light and collided with second vehicle. Unrestrained child was thrown partially out of first vehicle, suffering fatal injuries. Mother stated that she always used a safety seat but had not this time because this was a borrowed vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 13 Uninc./Riverside/1030. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. Speeding driver allowed her vehicle to drift into the side of a vehicle she was passing. Driver of second vehicle lost control and when the vehicle left the roadway it overturned several times, ejecting the child who was buckled into an adult safety belt.
ADULT BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE
- 13* Uninc./Santa Barbara/1815. 2-YR-OLD MALE. DUI Driver (mother) was driving at a high rate of speed (75 mph) when she lost control and left the roadway. Vehicle overturned ejecting the child and the unrestrained safety seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

- 30 Uninc./Tehama/1035. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Driver (mother) for unknown reasons allowed her vehicle to drift onto the shoulder of the road. When she overcorrected, she lost control of the vehicle which left the roadway and overturned ejecting the child. Officer's opinion was that the child safety seat was improperly used and that proper use would have saved the child's life.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

NOVEMBER

- 01* Uninc./Tulare/1420. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to drift off the edge of the roadway and strike a power pole. No safety seat in vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 06 Uninc./Riverside/0234. 3-YR-OLD MALE. Speeding driver was inattentive and rear ended a vehicle ahead of him. Second vehicle rolled over, ejecting the unrestrained child.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 06 Ontario/San Bernardino/1912. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Speeding DUI driver (0.17%) struck the rear of one vehicle, lost control and crossed over the center line and struck another **vehicle head on. Impact ejected the child.**
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 10 Uninc./Los Angeles/2250. 2-YR-OLD MALE. A DUI driver swerved across three freeway lanes and struck a vehicle stopped on the shoulder of the highway. Child was in a properly used safety seat at the point of massive impact. Two other children, who were also in safety seats or safety belts, received only minor injuries.
SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT
- 18* Uninc./San Luis Obispo/0928. 3-YR-OLD FEMALE. 17-year-old driver entered a corner at a minimum of 70 miles per hour, lost control of her vehicle and slid into a power pole. Unrestrained child and driver both suffered fatal injuries.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE
- 28* Uninc./Kern/1235. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. DUI driver failed to stop at a posted stop sign and stuck second vehicle in the intersection. Unrestrained child was in second vehicle.
NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

NOVEMBER (CONTINUED)

- 29 Uninc./Fresno/1427. 1-YR-OLD FEMALE. Child suffered fatal injuries (burns) when the vehicle in which she was riding exploded. This was part of a massive multi-vehicle, multi-fatality collision which occurred during a dust storm.
SAFETY SEAT NOT A FACTOR

DECEMBER

- 15* Uninc./Riverside/0630. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (mother) was operating a heavily overloaded passenger van. The vehicle began to weave from side to side because of a tracking and steering problem that the driver was aware of prior to this trip. Driver lost control of vehicle because of this mechanical problem and it overturned. Child was thrown around interior of vehicle and suffered fatal head injuries.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE
- 22 Uninc./Tehama/0345. 1-YR-OLD MALE. Driver (father) fell asleep and allowed his vehicle to leave the roadway. Driver then overcorrected and the vehicle overturned, ejecting the unrestrained child. There was a properly attached but unused child safety seat in the vehicle. Other vehicle occupants were using safety belts and avoided life-threatening injuries.
SEAT PRESENT BUT UNUSED/PREVENTABLE
- 28 Uninc./San Bernardino/1100. 2-YR-OLD MALE. Driver of first vehicle (father) had second vehicle suddenly turn in front of him while driving on freeway. Impact caused first vehicle to roll over with serious or fatal injuries to most of its passengers including child who was not buckled into his safety seat.
IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE